

My correspondence has increased so rapidly that it will be impossible for me to reply to all as speedily as I should like ; but remember that I shall acknowledge all in the report.

STEPHEN J. ADAMS, *Cornish, Me.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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The news of Major Chas. E. Bendire's death, whose work was thus so prematurely closed, brought with it not only a keen sense of the loss of the true scientist, but as well the almost certainty that his "Life Histories" would never be completed. We are gratified to see that the scientific organizations of the country are bending every effort to insure the continuance of this great work by some competent man. Toward this end we would beg to submit the following resolutions :

"Whereas, the death of Major Charles E. Bendire leaves his great work, the "Life Histories of North American Birds," scarcely more than begun, and

"Whereas, the ornithologists of the United States anticipate that the work will never be completed unless concerted interest be shown by scientists and scientific organizations, be it

"*Resolved*, that the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association hereby expresses its keen interest in the completion of this work by some competent oologist, and earnestly urges that those in authority in the Smithsonian Institute do all in their power to further the completion of this great work, and be it further

"*Resolved*, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the officers of the U. S. National Museum."

We regret the discontinuance of our esteemed contemporary, *The Nidologist*. Mr. Taylor's earnest efforts deserved more lasting success and his excellent magazine will be universally missed by bird students. Unexpired subscriptions will be filled by *The Popular Science News*.

The present number is behind time from a lack of copy, and for no other reason. This is the first time such a thing has happened, and we trust it will be the determination of every member of the Chapter that it will be the last time. In many parts of the country conditions have been favorable for some strange freaks among the birds, some of which must have come within the range of your eyes. You will confer a favor upon all ornithologists by submitting such things for publication.

In another place members will find the announcement for the annual election of officers for the coming year, and a list of names presented for membership. Let it be the duty of every active member to cast his vote in this election. The encouragement you will thus give to the officers will result in great good to the Chapter.

There is great need of a larger list of associate members. If you have a friend, acquaintance or correspondent who is not now a member, but whose interest in the birds is more than transient, invite him to become a member. We need his help, and we may be of service to him.

The roosting habits of birds deserve more notice in print than they have received. It must be true that many birds have been noticed going to roost, or have been flushed from their roosting places at twilight or during the night, perchance even seen to leave their nocturnal retreat at dawn, yet how few even casual references can be found in current literature. Can we not have a symposium of roosting habits in which each member shall briefly give whatever he may have noticed, even casually, about this subject? The editor would be delighted to receive brief notes about the roosting habits of any and all species. Notes like these are interesting: "A company of fifty or more Meadowlarks was seen to enter a clover meadow and disappear under the clover, at twilight." "Frightened a dozen Flickers from a thicket of prickley ash, half an hour after sunset." "Watched a solitary Tufted Tit go to bed under a huge leaf." Such notes show what the birds do at night. Will you not send the editor at once a few such short notes? They may be longer if you can spare the time to make them so.

One of the most encouraging "signs of the times" is the general awakening of the public to the pleasures and profits of bird study. Is it because that interloper, the English Sparrow, everywhere and at all times obtrudes himself upon the people's notice, or is it the intrinsic value of the birds in leading us to see more in life than material wealth? With only a little knowledge of nature, how much more the short walk for exercise, or the run into the country, or the daily drive, means to us and brings to us. Even though we may never wish to touch the deeper problems of the bird's life, we are led to an appreciation of all nature through them that will make our lives fuller and more pleasant. Blind eyes and deaf ears, among a race as active as ours in the ways of trade, may well be made to see and hear what there is for them in the world's wide range of natural objects which cannot be turned into gold, but which will lift the race to a higher plane of living and striving.